Blue-violet laser debut at CeBit

UK Cambridge based Plasmon with manufacturing facilities in Colorado Springs, demonstrated its working blue-violet laser optical disk drive. This supports the new Ultra Density Optical (UDO) disks and is developed for professional data starge markets of archiving, document imagaing, call centers, email archiving, GIS, medical, telecom, banking, insurance, legal and government. The 30Gb, UD) drives and media are to become the next generation standard on 5.25-inch optical drive technology. It replaces the existing magneto-optical (MO) base of drives and discs of the same diameter. Back in January, Plasmon, which specialises in optical archive solutions, signed with IBM for attachment support for Plasmon's latest G-Series libraries and next generation UDO 5.25inch optical drives on IBM eServer iSeries systems.

CyOptics buys CENix packaging

CyOptics, a developer of InP-based optical components, has acquired the optoelectronic component packaging capabilities of Allentown-based CENiX. The purchase gives CyOptics immediate access to expertise and capital equipment for package design and automated manufacturing.

CENiX was founded in June 2000, and developed a proprietary state of the art automated manufacturing facility capable of low-cost and uniform production of over 10,000 components per month. The purchase includes all capital equipment, inventory and intellectual property in the Allentown package development and manufacturing plant. In addition, CyOptics has hired the core manufacturing technical team of CENiX.

"Our customers require large scale device integration and 2x cost reductions from current prices in their overall supply chain. This consolidation of two best in breed players gives us the technology and low cost structure to meet all our customers' needs," said John Pilitsis, president and CEO of CyOptics.

Xerox goes Optical MEMS

Technology which integrates an Optical Micros Electro Mechanical Systems (Optical MEMS) photonic switch with planar light circuits on a single silicon chip is said to be small enough to fit on a fingertip. The technology can fully route fiber optical signals on demand and at the edge of the network and allows switching in an all-optical domain vs. today's optical networking equipment, which must switch from the optical to the electronic domain, the company said.

Joel Kubby, a technical manager at Xerox's Center for Research and Technology said that the switch can compress an entire Reconfigurable Optical Add/Drop Multiplexing (R-OADM) into 2cm x 1.5cm in size, eliminating the need to have large racks of assembled equipment to transfer large amounts of data, according to the company. "Our technology would let telecommunications companies install systems locally or even on utility poles," said Kubby.